Paddy procurement limit for A.P.

4420. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh met the Prime Minister and the Home Minister and expressed dissatisfaction over the Centre's attitude towards the State;

(b) if so, whether during the discussion the Chief Minister urged the Centre to raise paddy procurement limit by another ten lakh metric tonnes from the fifty five lakh metric tonnes;

(c) if so, to what extent, the Prime Minister assured him all help in regard to procurement, and other various issues; and

(d) if so, whether the Prime Minister has given any assurance for immediate action on all the pending issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh met the Prime Minister on 25.1.2001 and handed over a memorandum containing issues pertaining to the State pending with the Government of India. One of the issues raised by the Chief Minister related to increasing the Kharif procurement targets of rice of FCI for 2000-2001 from 55 lakh MTs to 65 lakhs MTs. At the end of the meeting, the Prime Minister assured the Chief Minister that the issues will be taken up with the Ministries and sorted out. At the last meeting of CM, Andhra Pradesh with PM on 7.4.2001 this subject was not raised presumably because the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh did not discuss the issue of procurement of paddy with the Home Minister.